

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00429 131434Z

46

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 OIC-01 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, FAO, UNGA

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: CONTROVERSY ABOUT SECRETARIAT CONTROL

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BUTTON-HOLED FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA BRIEFLY AFTER HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE JANUARY 13, AND BOERMA RECOUNTED HIS VERSION OF HIS MEETING WITH UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM JANUARY 9 AND 10 ON SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. WALDHEIM HAD SUGGESTED THAT STRONG OF UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM HEAD SECRETARIAT FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND BOERMA OPPOSED. BOERMA SAYS NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF JANUARY 12 (PAPER NOT AVAILABLE HERE) REPORTING HIS OPPOSITION TO STRONG IS NOT PRECISELY CORRECT: BOERMA SAYS HE OPPOSED STRONG NOT ON PERSONAL GROUNDS BUT ON GROUNDS THAT HE IS OF TOO HIGH RANK. COMPROMISE WAS REACHED ON NAMING HANNAH TO ACT IN CHARGE OF SECRETARIAT FOR SIX MONTHS, WHICH IS QUITE ACCEPTABLE TO BOERMA.

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PAGE 02 ROME 00429 131434Z

3. BOERMA INSISTED THAT SECRETARIAT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FAO IN ROME SHOULD BE GENERALLY SUBORDINATE TO HIM. WALDHEIM REFUSED, AND NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THIS POINT. BOERMA TOLD WALDHEIM HE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ISSUE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF FAO.

4. BOERMA REPORTS THAT McNAMARA SUGGESTED CONSULTATIVE GROUP IN WASHINGTON BE CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR EDWIN M. MARTIN. BOERMA SAYS ALTERNATE WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IS MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO OF VENEZUELA.

5. BOERMA IS CALLING PERMANENT COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TOGETHER FRIDAY TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK. THIS PRESUMABLY WILL BE FIRST STEP IN HIS TAKING SECRETARIAT ISSUE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF FAO. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL RAISE ISSUE FORMALLY IN SPECIAL SESSION OF FAO COUNCIL IN MARCH. VOLPE

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